

# Quaternion Family Symmetry of Quarks and Leptons

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## Abstract

To a first approximation, the quark mixing matrix has  $\theta_{13}^q = \theta_{23}^q = 0$ , whereas the lepton mixing matrix has  $\theta_{23}^l = \pi/4$ . We show how this structure may be understood if the family symmetry is  $Q_8$ , the quaternion group of eight elements. We find three viable scenarios for the Majorana neutrino mass matrix, each depending on 4 parameters and predicting a specific mass spectrum. The phenomenology of the two Higgs doublets which generate the Yukawa sector is analyzed and testable predictions are derived. We discuss also the closely related model based on  $D_4$ , the symmetry group of the square.

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There are 3 families of quarks and leptons with accompanying  $3 \times 3$  mixing matrices:  $V_{CKM} = V_u^\dagger V_d$  linking the  $(u, c, t)$  quarks to the  $(d, s, b)$  quarks, and  $U_{MNSP} = U_l^\dagger U_\nu$  linking the  $(e, \mu, \tau)$  charged leptons to the  $(\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3)$  neutrinos. The  $V_{CKM}$  matrix may be parametrized with 3 angles  $\theta_{ij}^q$  and 1 phase  $\delta^q$  and similarly  $U_{MNSP}$ , after absorbing two relative Majorana phases in the neutrino mass eigenvalues. Numerically,  $|V_{us}| \simeq 0.22$ ,  $|V_{cb}| \simeq 0.04$ ,  $|V_{ub}| \simeq 0.004$ , thus setting  $\theta_{13}^q = \theta_{23}^q = 0$  is a good first approximation of  $V_{CKM}$ . On the other hand,  $U_{MNSP}$  has a very different structure: both  $\theta_{12}^l$  and  $\theta_{23}^l$  are known to be large, with  $\theta_{23}^l = \pi/4$  as its best value experimentally (and  $\theta_{12}^l \neq \pi/4$ ).

We propose in this letter a new understanding of  $V_{CKM}$  and  $U_{MNSP}$  in terms of the non-Abelian discrete symmetry  $Q_8$ , the quaternion group of 8 elements. Using a natural generic assignment of quarks and leptons and the simplest nontrivial Higgs content, we show that there are only 4 possible scenarios for leptons (but only 3 are viable phenomenologically) and 1 scenario for quarks. We will also discuss the closely related discrete symmetry  $D_4$ , which is the symmetry group of the square. The latter also has 8 elements and the same character table as  $Q_8$  with 5 conjugacy classes and 5 irreducible representations (irreps):  $\mathbf{1}^{++}$ ,  $\mathbf{1}^{+-}$ ,  $\mathbf{1}^{-+}$ ,  $\mathbf{1}^{--}$ , and  $\mathbf{2}$  (see Table 1). Two specific models based on  $D_4 \times Z_2$  have recently been proposed [1, 2].

Table 1: Character table of  $Q_8$  ( $D_4$ ). Here  $n$  is the number of elements in each conjugacy class, while  $h$  is the order of any element  $g$  in that class, i.e. the smallest integer such that  $g^h = 1$ .

class	$n$	$h$	$\chi_{++}$	$\chi_{+-}$	$\chi_{-+}$	$\chi_{--}$	$\chi_2$
$C_1$	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
$C_2$	1	2	1	1	1	1	-2
$C_3$	2	4	1	-1	-1	1	0
$C_4$	2	4(2)	1	1	-1	-1	0
$C_5$	2	4(2)	1	-1	1	-1	0

Before we show how it all works, let us present our main results. Using  $Q_8$ , we find the following 4 scenarios for the Majorana neutrino mass matrix (in the basis where the charged-lepton mass matrix is diagonal):

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)} = \begin{pmatrix} a & c & d \\ c & 0 & b \\ d & b & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)} = \begin{pmatrix} a & c & d \\ c & b & 0 \\ d & 0 & b \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c & d \\ c & a & b \\ d & b & a \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c & d \\ c & a & 0 \\ d & 0 & b \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

Scenarios (1) and (4) correspond to mass matrices with two texture zeros, which have been studied in the literature [3]; in particular scenario (4) is known to be ruled out. Scenarios (2) and (3) both have  $m_{22} = m_{33}$  and one texture zero. These are new structures which are also viable phenomenologically as we will show.

The group  $Q_8$  may be generated by the eight  $2 \times 2$  matrices  $\pm \mathbb{1}$ ,  $\pm i\sigma_1$ ,  $\pm i\sigma_2$ ,  $\pm i\sigma_3$ , whereas  $D_4$  may be obtained with  $\pm i\sigma_{1,3}$  replaced by  $\pm \sigma_{1,3}$ . Each set is also a faithful two-dimensional irrep **2** of the respective group. Geometrically, the group  $Q_8$  may be associated with the 8 vertices of the hyperoctahedron (dual of the hypercube) in four dimensions. The two superscript signs for the one-dimensional irreps correspond to the characters of the  $C_4$  and  $C_5$  classes, generated by  $\pm i\sigma_{1,3}$  (or  $\pm \sigma_{1,3}$ ) respectively. Among themselves, the 4 one-dimensional representations transform as  $Z_2 \times Z'_2$ . In the case of  $Q_8$ , the irreps  $\mathbf{1}^{+-}$ ,  $\mathbf{1}^{-+}$ , and  $\mathbf{1}^{--}$  are completely interchangeable, since they share exactly the same group properties. This means that if a theory contains a set of these irreps, replacing them with those obtained by any ( $S_3$ ) permutation of the 3 classes  $C_{3,4,5}$  will not change the physical predictions of the theory. Specific examples will be given below. In the case of  $D_4$ , only  $\mathbf{1}^{+-}$  and  $\mathbf{1}^{-+}$  are equivalent, since the conjugacy class  $C_3$  is distinguished from  $C_4$  and  $C_5$  by the order of their elements (see Table 1). For both groups, the basic tensor product rule is  $\mathbf{2} \times \mathbf{2} = \mathbf{1}^{++} + \mathbf{1}^{+-} + \mathbf{1}^{-+} + \mathbf{1}^{--}$ , but the doublet components are combined in different ways for  $Q_8$  and  $D_4$ , as shown in Table 2. Since the two-dimensional irrep of  $D_4$  is real,  $(\psi_1, \psi_2)$  transforming as a doublet implies that  $(\psi_1^*, \psi_2^*)$  is also a doublet, whereas in the case of  $Q_8$ , the correct assignment is  $(\psi_2^*, -\psi_1^*)$  as expected, just like a doublet under  $SU(2)$ .

Under  $Q_8$ , we assign the 3 quark and lepton families and two Higgs doublets as follows:

$$(u_i \ d_i), \ u_i^c, \ d_i^c \sim \mathbf{1}^{--}, \ \mathbf{1}^{-+}, \ \mathbf{1}^{+-}; \quad (5)$$

$$(\nu_i \ l_i), \ l_i^c \sim \mathbf{1}^{++}, \ \mathbf{2}; \quad (6)$$

$$(\phi_1^0, \phi_1^-) \sim \mathbf{1}^{++}, \quad (\phi_2^0, \phi_2^-) \sim \mathbf{1}^{+-}. \quad (7)$$

Table 2:  $\mathbf{2} \times \mathbf{2}$  decompositions of  $Q_8$  and  $D_4$ .

group	11 + 22	12 + 21	11 - 22	12 - 21
$Q_8$	$\mathbf{1}^{--}$	$\mathbf{1}^{-+}$	$\mathbf{1}^{+-}$	$\mathbf{1}^{++}$
$D_4$	$\mathbf{1}^{++}$	$\mathbf{1}^{+-}$	$\mathbf{1}^{-+}$	$\mathbf{1}^{--}$

As a result, each quark mass matrix in the basis  $(\mathbf{1}^{--}, \mathbf{1}^{-+}, \mathbf{1}^{+-})$  is of the form

$$\mathcal{M}_q = \begin{pmatrix} a & d & 0 \\ e & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & c \end{pmatrix}, \quad (8)$$

where  $a, b, c$  are proportional to  $\langle \phi_1^0 \rangle$  and  $d, e$  to  $\langle \phi_2^0 \rangle$ . This means that the third family does not mix with the other two, i.e.  $\theta_{13}^q = \theta_{23}^q = 0$ , which is a good first approximation. On the other hand, the charged-lepton mass matrix in the basis  $(\mathbf{1}^{++}, \mathbf{2})$  is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_l = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c & b \\ 0 & -b & -c \end{pmatrix}, \quad (9)$$

where  $a, b$  are proportional to  $\langle \phi_1^0 \rangle$  and  $c$  to  $\langle \phi_2^0 \rangle$ . This matrix is easily diagonalized by a rotation of  $\pi/4$  on the left and on the right, i.e.  $\mu, \tau = (l_2 \pm l_3)/\sqrt{2}$  and  $\mu^c, \tau^c = (l_2^c \mp l_3^c)/\sqrt{2}$ , with  $m_e = |a|$ ,  $m_\mu = |c - b|$ , and  $m_\tau = |c + b|$ .

The neutrino mass matrix is assumed to be Majorana and generated by the naturally small vacuum expectation values (VEVs) of heavy Higgs triplets  $\xi_i \equiv (\xi_i^{++}, \xi_i^+, \xi_i^0)$ . The assignment of triplets to the different  $Q_8$  irreps is crucial for the resulting neutrino mass pattern.

**Scenario (1).** Since the triplet VEVs are induced [4] via trilinear couplings of the form  $\xi_i \phi_j \phi_k$ , the requirement of  $Q_8$  symmetry would allow only  $\xi_1 \sim \mathbf{1}^{++}$  and  $\xi_2 \sim \mathbf{1}^{+-}$  to contribute. In that case,  $\mathcal{M}_\nu$  has  $|m_2| = |m_3|$  and  $\nu_e$  is unmixed, which is not realistic. However,  $Q_8$  is expected to be broken softly, thus the scalar trilinear  $\xi_i \phi_j \phi_k$  terms may induce small VEVs also on  $(\xi_3, \xi_4) \sim \mathbf{2}$ , by which

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} a & e & f \\ e & b & 0 \\ f & 0 & -b \end{pmatrix}, \quad (10)$$

where  $a$  comes from  $\langle \xi_1^0 \rangle$ ,  $b$  from  $\langle \xi_2^0 \rangle$ ,  $e = h \langle \xi_4^0 \rangle$ , and  $f = -h \langle \xi_3^0 \rangle$ . In the  $e, \mu, \tau$  basis with  $\mu, \tau = (l_2 \pm l_3)/\sqrt{2}$ , the neutrino mass matrix takes the form of Eq. (1), with  $c, d = (e \pm f)/\sqrt{2}$ .

Two texture zeros in the  $\nu_\mu\nu_\mu$  and  $\nu_\tau\nu_\tau$  entries are thus derived (for the first time) by our application of the  $Q_8$  family symmetry. This is known to be a viable pattern [3, 5] and in most cases predicts an inverted mass spectrum. Here  $\theta_{23}^l = \pi/4$  and  $\theta_{13}^l = 0$  are obtained in the limit of  $c = \pm d$ . Deviations from maximal 2 – 3 mixing are allowed proportionally to the nonzero value of  $\theta_{13}^l$ , which can be as large as the experimental upper bound. With the present experimental constraints, we find  $|m_2| > 0.04$  eV and  $|m_3| > 0.015$  eV, as shown in Fig. 1. The neutrinoless  $2\beta$ -decay rate is controlled by  $m_{ee} \equiv |a| > 0.02$  eV. A quasi-degenerate spectrum can be obtained, when in Eq.(1)  $a \approx b$  and  $c, d$  are much smaller [5]; in this limit the ordering of the spectrum can be also normal (see Fig. 1).

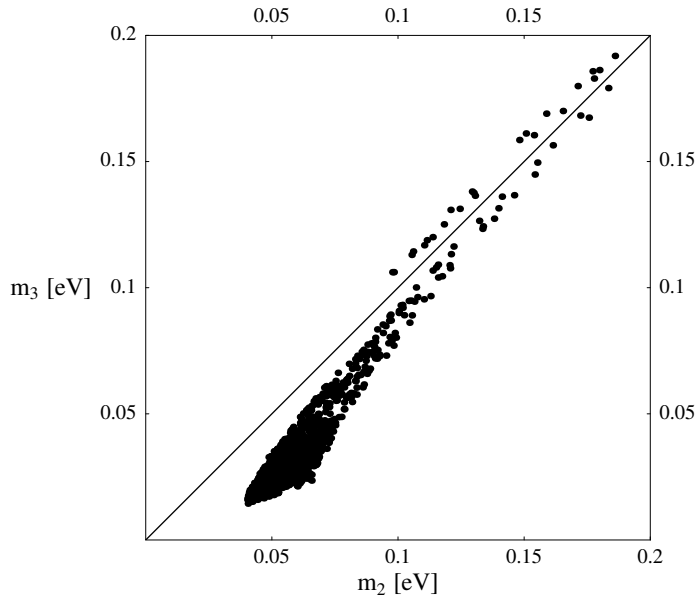


Figure 1: The allowed region in  $m_2 - m_3$  plane for scenario (1) is presented in eV units. The masses are scanned in the experimental allowed range :  $\Delta m_{\text{sol}}^2 = (7.7 - 8.8) \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$ ,  $\Delta m_{\text{atm}}^2 = (1.5 - 3.4) \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ ,  $\tan^2 \theta_{\text{sol}} = 0.33 - 0.49$ ,  $\sin^2 2\theta_{\text{atm}} \geq 0.92$ , and  $\sin \theta_{\text{CHOOZ}} < 0.2$ .

There are 3 equivalent assignments of Higgs doublets and triplets which result in scenario (1), as listed in Table 3. In the choice B2,  $\mathcal{M}_l$  is diagonal if we redefine  $l_{2,3}^c$  as  $l_{3,2}^c$ , and  $\mathcal{M}_\nu$  has the form of Eq. (1) automatically as it should. In the choice C3, the charged-lepton and

Table 3: Assignments of the Higgs doublet  $\phi_2$  and of the Higgs triplets  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  corresponding to the four scenarios for the neutrino mass matrix described by Eqs. (1)-(4). The assignments  $\phi_1 \sim \mathbf{1}^{++}$  and  $(\xi_3, \xi_4) \sim \mathbf{2}$  are kept fixed in all cases under study.

			1	2	3
	$\xi_1$	$\xi_2$	$\phi_2 \sim \mathbf{1}^{+-}$	$\phi_2 \sim \mathbf{1}^{-+}$	$\phi_2 \sim \mathbf{1}^{--}$
A	$\mathbf{1}^{++}$	$\mathbf{1}^{+-}$	(1)	(2)	(2)
B	$\mathbf{1}^{++}$	$\mathbf{1}^{-+}$	(2)	(1)	(2)
C	$\mathbf{1}^{++}$	$\mathbf{1}^{--}$	(2)	(2)	(1)
D	$\mathbf{1}^{+-}$	$\mathbf{1}^{-+}$	(3)	(3)	(4)
E	$\mathbf{1}^{+-}$	$\mathbf{1}^{--}$	(3)	(4)	(3)
F	$\mathbf{1}^{-+}$	$\mathbf{1}^{--}$	(4)	(3)	(3)

neutrino mass matrices are given by

$$\mathcal{M}_l = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c & b \\ 0 & -b & c \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{M}_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} a & e & f \\ e & b & 0 \\ f & 0 & b \end{pmatrix}. \quad (11)$$

Diagonalizing  $\mathcal{M}_l$  by

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 & i/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (12)$$

we find that  $\mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)} = U\mathcal{M}_\nu U^T$  has the same form as Eq. (1), with  $c, d = (f \pm ie)/\sqrt{2}$ . In the quark sector, if we replace the 3 one-dimensional irreps of Eq. (5) with any other 3, and put the remaining one in the lepton sector, we again have the same physical predictions, i.e. Eqs. (8) and (1).

**Scenario (2).** Instead of using Higgs triplets of the same one-dimensional irreps as the Higgs doublets which we did in scenario (1), consider the use of one triplet in the  $\mathbf{1}^{++}$  irrep (as  $\phi_1$ ) and a second triplet in one irrep equivalent but different from that of  $\phi_2$ . There are 6 such assignments, as shown in Table 3, which are all equivalent as expected. For definiteness, let us study the choice B1. In this case,  $\mathcal{M}_l$  is given by Eq. (9) and  $\mathcal{M}_\nu$  by Eq. (1), so that in the  $e, \mu, \tau$  basis we obtain Eq. (2) (with a redefinition of  $c$  and  $d$ ). Let us now prove that this new pattern is viable phenomenologically. If  $c$  and  $d$  are relatively real, then  $m_3 = b$  and  $\nu_3 = s_{23}\nu_\mu + c_{23}\nu_\tau$ , with  $s_{23} = -d/\sqrt{c^2 + d^2}$ , and  $c_{23} = c/\sqrt{c^2 + d^2}$ , i.e.  $\theta_{13}^l = 0$  necessarily

and  $\tan \theta_{23}^l = -d/c$  is arbitrary (the second  $D_4 \times Z_2$  model [2] also has this property, but its other predictions are different). In this limiting case we have the identity  $a = m_1 + m_2 - m_3$  and the sum rule  $s_{12}^2 m_1 + c_{12}^2 m_2 = m_3$ , which implies inverted hierarchy as shown in Fig. 2.

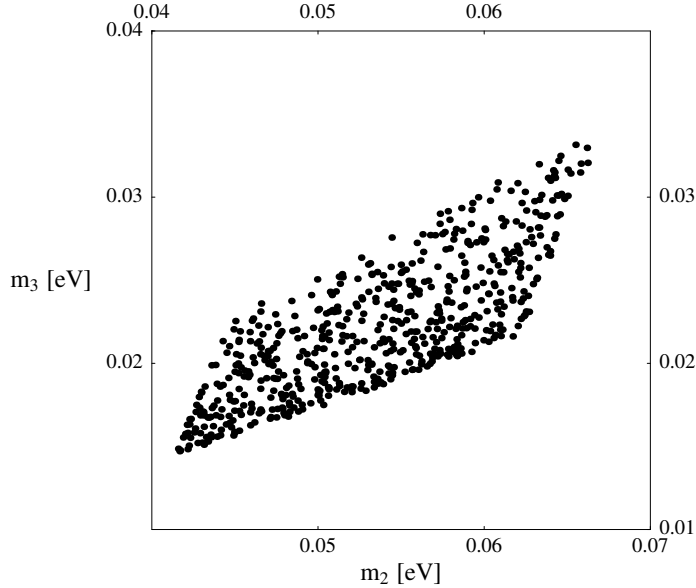


Figure 2: The allowed region in  $m_2 - m_3$  plane for scenario (2) is presented in eV units, in the limit  $\theta_{13}^l = 0$ . The masses are scanned in the same experimental allowed range of neutrino parameters as Fig. 1.

If  $c$  and  $d$  are not relatively real,  $\theta_{13}^l$  becomes nonzero, and the resulting allowed region in the  $m_2 - m_3$  plane is similar to that of Fig. 1. In particular, a degenerate spectrum is allowed, when the matrix (2) becomes close to the identity matrix ( $a \approx b$  and  $c, d$  much smaller) [5].

**Scenario (3).** The last viable scenario under  $Q_8$  has one Higgs triplet in the same irrep as  $\phi_2$  and a second triplet in one of the other two equivalent irreps. There are 6 equivalent assignments, as listed in Table 3. Consider the choice E1. In this case,  $\mathcal{M}_l$  is given by Eq. (9) as before, but the neutrino mass matrix is now

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e & f \\ e & a+b & 0 \\ f & 0 & a-b \end{pmatrix}. \quad (13)$$

Since this is the same as Eq. (10) except for the placement of  $a$ , it becomes the matrix of Eq. (3) in the  $e, \mu, \tau$  basis, in analogy with Eq. (1). This is another new viable pattern and predicts a normal hierarchy. Here  $\theta_{23}^l = \pi/4$  and  $\theta_{13}^l = 0$  are again obtained in the limit  $c = \pm d$ . With the form of Eq. (3), the constraint  $\sin \theta_{13} < 0.2$  implies that  $\sin^2 2\theta_{23} > 0.987$ , and predicts

$$\begin{aligned} 0.035 \text{ eV} &< |m_3| < 0.065 \text{ eV} , \\ 0.009 \text{ eV} &< |m_2| < 0.015 \text{ eV} . \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Consider the choice F3. In this case,  $\mathcal{M}_l$  is the one given in Eq. (11), which is diagonalized by  $U$  of Eq. (12). On the other hand, the neutrino mass matrix is of the form of Eq. (3) already, so isn't the extra rotation of  $\pi/4$  required by  $U$  going to change its form? The answer is no, because

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -i & 1 \\ i & 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1-i & -1-i \\ 1+i & -1+i \end{pmatrix}, \tag{15}$$

which also rotates the  $\nu_\mu - \nu_\tau$  sector by  $\pi/4$ . As a result, Eq. (3) retains its form: the observed maximal atmospheric mixing emerges from maximal mixing in both neutrino and charged lepton sectors! It is easy to work out the details in each of the other cases as well.

In all 3 scenarios, i.e. Eqs. (1), (2), and (3), there are 4 parameters in  $\mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)}$ . This means that the 3 neutrino masses and their 3 mixing angles are related. In particular, the absolute scale of  $m_{1,2,3}$  is constrained in each case, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and Eq. (14). Thus they are all testable predictions.

So far we have a successful  $U_{MNSP}$  matrix but only an approximate  $V_{CKM}$  matrix because  $\theta_{13}^q = \theta_{23}^q = 0$ . This means that the quark sector has an extra global symmetry associated with the third family, i.e. a top/bottom flavor number. This symmetry may be broken, for example, by adding to the specific assignment of Eq. (7) the Higgs doublet  $\phi_3 \sim \mathbf{1}^{--}$  which contributes to the (23) and (32) entries of  $\mathcal{M}_q$  in Eq. (8) to allow  $\theta_{23}^q \neq 0$  and also  $\theta_{13}^q \neq 0$ . This will of course also affect  $\mathcal{M}_l$  of Eq. (9) but only in the  $\mu - \tau$  sector. It means that even if  $\theta_{13}^l = 0$  in scenarios (1) and (3),  $\theta_{23}^l$  should deviate from  $\pi/4$  as well, having the same origin as deviations of  $\theta_{23}^q$  and  $\theta_{13}^q$  from zero. (For a possible indication of deviation from maximal atmospheric mixing in SuperKamiokande data see for example Ref. [6].)

If we use  $D_4$  instead of  $Q_8$ , then according to the multiplication rules of Table 2, we find one realization of scenario (1), i.e. the choice C3 of Table 3, two of scenario (2), i.e. the choices C1 and C2, and two of scenario (3), i.e. the choices D1 and D2. There are also two



other viable scenarios (but with 5 parameters), i.e.

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)} = \begin{pmatrix} e & c & d \\ c & a & b \\ d & b & a \end{pmatrix} \quad (3'); \quad \mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)} = \begin{pmatrix} e & c & d \\ c & a & 0 \\ d & 0 & b \end{pmatrix} \quad (4').$$

Scenario (3') is obtained with the choices A2,A3,B1,B3 of Table 3 and scenario (4') with A1,B2. If we assume  $c = d$  in scenario (3'), then we obtain the result of the first  $D_4 \times Z_2$  model [1], but without using the extra  $Z_2$ .

In the Higgs sector,  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are distinguished by an odd-even parity. The ensuing scalar potential is well-known, having in general a minimum with nonzero VEVs for both  $\phi_1^0$  and  $\phi_2^0$ . Consider  $\mathcal{M}_q$  of Eq. (8). The  $2 \times 2$  sub-matrix spanning the first two families may be diagonalized in general by a rotation on the left and a rotation on the right. Specifically, in the case of the  $d$  and  $s$  quarks, it may be written as

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_L & s_L \\ -s_L & c_L \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m_d & 0 \\ 0 & m_s \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_R & -s_R \\ s_R & c_R \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_L c_R m_d + s_L s_R m_s & -c_L s_R m_d + s_L c_R m_s \\ -s_L c_R m_d + c_L s_R m_s & s_L s_R m_d + c_L c_R m_s \end{pmatrix}. \quad (16)$$

Since  $\phi_1^0$  couples to the diagonal entries and  $\phi_2^0$  couples to the off-diagonal entries, there are  $ds^c$  and  $sd^c$  couplings to each given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_Y \supset & \left\{ [-s_R c_R (c_L^2 - s_L^2) m_d + s_L c_L (c_R^2 - s_R^2) m_s] ds^c \right. \\ & + \left. [-s_L c_L (c_R^2 - s_R^2) m_d + s_R c_R (c_L^2 - s_L^2) m_s] sd^c \right\} \\ & \times (\phi_2^0/v_2 - \phi_1^0/v_1) + H.c. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Note that, even though  $\mathcal{M}_l$  of Eq. (9) is not diagonal, the  $\mu - \tau$  sector has  $c_L^2 = s_L^2 = c_R^2 = s_R^2 = 1/2$ . Hence Eq. (17) shows that flavor-changing  $\mu - \tau$  interactions are absent.

In our model, the state  $(v_1 \phi_1^0 + v_2 \phi_2^0)/\sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2}$  is identifiable with the neutral Higgs boson of the Standard Model. Its orthogonal state  $h^0 = (v_1 \phi_2^0 - v_2 \phi_1^0)/\sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2}$  appears in Eq. (17) and couples to both  $ds^c$  and  $sd^c$ , thereby contributing to the  $K_L - K_S$  mass difference. This contribution depends on the unknown parameters  $s_R$  and  $m_h$ . It is suitably suppressed if either  $s_R$  is small or  $m_h$  is large. For example, if  $s_R$  is negligible, then [7]

$$\frac{\Delta m_K}{m_K} \simeq \frac{B_K f_K^2}{3m_h^2} \left( \frac{v_1^2 + v_2^2}{v_1^2 v_2^2} \right) s_L^2 c_L^2 m_d m_s. \quad (18)$$

Taking  $v_1 = v_2 = 123$  GeV,  $s_L^2 \simeq m_d/m_s$ ,  $B_K = 0.4$ ,  $f_K = 114$  MeV and  $m_d = 7$  MeV, this contribution is  $1.1 \times 10^{-15} (100 \text{ GeV}/m_h)^2$ , the experimental value being  $7.0 \times 10^{-15}$ .

Similarly, the contribution to  $\Delta m_D/m_D$  is estimated to be  $1.3 \times 10^{-15} (100 \text{ GeV}/m_h)^2$ , which is well below the experimental upper bound of  $2.5 \times 10^{-14}$ . In the leptonic sector,  $h^0$  is predicted to have the interaction

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_Y \supset \frac{h^0}{2\sqrt{v_1^2+v_2^2}} \left\{ \left( \frac{v_1}{v_2} - \frac{v_2}{v_1} \right) (m_\tau \tau \tau^c + m_\mu \mu \mu^c) + \right. \\ \left. + \left( \frac{v_1}{v_2} + \frac{v_2}{v_1} \right) (m_\mu \tau \tau^c + m_\tau \mu \mu^c) \right\} + H.c. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Its decay into  $\tau^+ \tau^-$  and  $\mu^+ \mu^-$  pairs will be crucial in the verification of this model.

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